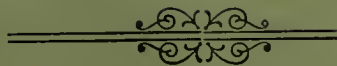


*BOROUGH OF BECCLES.*



Medical Officer's . .  
Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1905.

---

*E. J. BRYANT, PRINTER, HUNGATE STREET, BECCLES.*



# BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

---

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

## ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December, 1905.

---



GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Beccles for the year 1905.

It contains the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board.

The Borough comprises an area of about 1,392 acres, and contains according to the last census, a Population of 6898 persons.

During the past 12 months, 145 Births have been registered in the Borough, equal to a rate of 21.02 per 1000 of the estimated population.

During the past year, 84 Deaths have been registered, not including those who died in Beccles, but who resided in the surrounding districts.

The increase in Births over Deaths will be seen to be 61, as compared with 81 the previous year, and 68 during the year 1903.

The following Table gives the Births and Deaths from all causes in each quarter of the past year.

BIRTHS.				DEATHS.		
<i>Quarter ending.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
March	21	17	38	13	18	31
June	19	17	36	8	9	17
September	11	23	34	8	7	15
December	21	16	37	9	8	17
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	72	73	145	38	42	80

There have been 9 Deaths of Residents, who have died in the Wangford Union, Shipmeadow, and 4 of Non-residents in the Beccles Hospital.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality of a district is the Annual number of Deaths of children, *under one year of age*, to every thousand births during the same year. Such a return is of value, for it is an important test of the health of the community, and of the Sanitary condition.

During 1905, as already mentioned, there were 145 Births. The total Deaths of infants under one year was 18, out of the whole total of deaths of 84.

The Infant Mortality rate is therefore 124·13 as compared with 98·16

#### THE CAUSES OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Malnutrition and Debility	...	4
Premature Birth	...	3
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	5
Diarrhoea	...	1
Other causes	...	5

A large proportion of the Deaths of infants is due to improper feeding usually from ignorance of what is right in this respect on the part of young mothers. To oburate this, a card with printed instructions on the feeding of young children, will be given to the parents of each infant, after its birth.

#### DEATHS FROM SPECIAL CAUSES.

		1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
Cancer	...	4	6	10	14
Phthisis	...	5	9	7	9
Bronchitis		9	9	8	11
and	...	8			
Pneumonia					
		} 17			
Heart Disease		6	9	7	9
Senility	...	12			
Diphtheria	...	1	0	1	3
Suicide	...	1	1	1	1

It is to be noted that the deaths from Cancer have continued to decrease ; also the smaller number of deaths from Phthisis.

During the past year there has been only one death registered from Zymotic diseases, namely Diphtheria.

There has been no important epidemic of an infectious character : and therefore no necessity to close any of the schools.

EIGHT INQUESTS have been held by the Coroner, including—1 death from Suicide, and 3 deaths from accidents.

## Sanitary Work.

---

---

Dairies and Cowkeepers' premises have been kept to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. G. Love.

These have been periodically visited both by him and by myself.

There are 19 Cowkeepers and about 210 Cows.

There are 10 registered Slaughter Houses which have been inspected during the year, and found to be on the whole in a satisfactory condition.

There are 4 registered Gunpowder premises inclusive of 2 for Fireworks.

There is one common Lodging House.

All complaints as to Nuisances have been inquired into by the Inspector, and in several cases notices were sent requesting their abatement.

## Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

---

---

This Hospital has been in use during the year for 17 weeks for the admission of 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, all of which were mild in character. There have been no admissions of Diphtheria Patients.

The Nursing has been carried out according to the arrangements made by the Nurses' Home.

The prompt Isolation of these Patients prevented any spread of Infection in the homes.

#### NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES ACT.

There have been notified to me the following diseases notifiable under the Act :—Diphtheria 4 cases, Erysipelas 2, Scarlet Fever 15, Enteric Fever 3. I have dealt with these cases of Infection in my quarterly reports to you, explaining the probable sources of infection.

#### WATER SUPPLY OF THE BOROUGH.

At the present time there is a good supply of water from the new wells in Pudding Moor.

An analysis was made by the County Analyst, who reported very favourably on the quality of the water for drinking purposes. Owing to complaints made to me on account of the brown discolouration of the water, I made during the summer, examinations of the water and found this was due to the iron deposit from the pipes. The water when examined before its entry into these pipes, was free from such brown deposit.

#### REQUIREMENTS OF THE FACTORY ACT.

Buildings and workshops, included in this Act have been visited and found to be in a Sanitary condition, with suitable Sanitary appliances and ventilation. There are few Workshops and Factories which are under the regulations of the Act.

I include in this report, a short report from the Borough Surveyor.

I am, yours faithfully,

GEORGE R. FOX, F.R.C.S., (ENG.),

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## Borough Surveyor's Report.

---

During the past year the Council have substituted a  $12\frac{1}{2}$  horse-power "National" Gas Engine for a Steam Engine, at a cost of £122, this resulting in a saving of nearly 50 per cent in fuel to the Corporation.

The Bathing Place Committee have in contemplation a scheme for increasing the accomodation of Bathers.

Additional cement paving to the amount of 686 sq. yds., has been laid in the Borough ; while 450 tons of Guernsey granite have been used on roads, and nearly 350 tons of broken flints. The rolling and scarifyings was done by the Essex Steam Rolling Association, the mileage of streets and roads of the Borough being just under 10 miles.

A great many Sanitary improvements have been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector in connection with the water supplies to water-closets.

Contracts have just been let for the making up of two roads under the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Sewers are flushed every month, the amount of water being measured through a meter.

The Corporation possesses an Isolation Hospital, which has been closed for more than 6 months, showing the excellent state of the health of the town.

T. O. CUDBIRD,

*Borough Surveyor.*



TABLE I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

*Name of District*—BOROUGH OF BECCLES, SUFFOLK.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS RE- GISTERED IN THE DIST.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUT- IONS IN THE DIST.	DEATHS OF NON-RESIDENTS REGISTERED IN PUBLIC INSTI- TUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	DEATHS OF RESIDENTS REGIS- TERED IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS BEYOND THE DISTRICT.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BE- LONGING TO THE DIST ICT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all ages					Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	Nmber.	Rate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895.												
1896.												
1897.												
1898.												
1899.												
1900.												
1901.												
1902.	6,898	164	23.7	17	103.6	105	15.2	7	5	6	106	15.3
1903.	6,898	152	22.03	13	85.6	84	12.17	4	3	5	86	12.2
1904.	6,898	163	23.6	16	98.16	82	11.8	7	4	4	82	11.8
Averages for years 1895-1904.												
1905.	6898	145	21.02	18	124.14	84	12.17	9	4	9	89	12.9

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). } 1,892

Total population at all ages, 6,898  
 Number of inhabited houses, 1,484  
 Average number of persons per house, 4.64

} At Census of 1901.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deat in which have been dis- tributed among the severa localities in the District.
Beccles Hospital.	Wangford Union, Shipmeadow.	Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Beccles.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District ? No.

TABLE III.

## Cases of Infections Disease notified during the Year 1905.

*Name of District*—BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

Duplicate

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.														
Small-pox ... ..	...																			
Cholera ... ..	...																			
Diphtheria ... ..	4			4																
Membranous croup																				
Erysipelas ... ..	2					2														
Scarlet fever ... ..	15			13	2									7						
Typhus fever ... ..																				
Enteric fever ... ..	3				2	1														
Relapsing fever ... ..																				
Continued fever ... ..																				
Puerperal fever ... ..																				
Plague ... ..																				
Total ... ..	24			17	4									7						

TABLE IV.Duplicate IV.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death During Year 1905.

*Name of District*—BOROUGH OF BECCLES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BE- YOND THE DISTRICT.							TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESI- DENTS OR NON-RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Small-pox ... ..															
Measles ... ..															
Scarlet fever ... ..															
Whooping-cough															
Diphtheria and membranous croup	1			1											
Croup ... ..															
Fever } Typhus ... ..															1
} Enteric ... ..															
} Other con- tinued ... ..															
Epidemic influenza															
Cholera .. ..															
Plague ... ..															
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	1													
Enteritis ... ..															
Puerperal fever ...															
Erysipelas ... ..															
Other septic dis- eases ... ..	1					1									1
Phthisis, (Pulmon- ary Tuberculosis.)	5			1	1	3									
Other tubercular diseases.															
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	4				1	1	2	5							
Bronchitis ... ..	9	2				2	4								
Pneumonia ... ..	8	3				1									
Pleurisy ... ..							1								
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	1					1									
Alcoholism															
Cirrhosis of liver }	1														
Venereal diseases															
Premature birth	3	3					3								
Diseases and acci- dents of parturit- ion. ... ..	1				1	1	2								
Heart disease ... ..	6														
Accidents ... ..	2		1	1											2
Suicides .. ..	1					1									
Marasmas ... ..	4	4													
Senile decay ... ..	12						12								
All other causes ...	20	5			2	11	2								5
All causes ... ..	80	18	1	3	5	24	29								9